

count votes, and I understand that this does not appear to be the position held by a majority of my colleagues.

As the next best thing, then, I think your Committee should ask the administration to take another look at what the Pressler amendment requires—to see if there are opportunities for useful modification.

This is not a radical suggestion. Indeed, both this and the previous administration have already begun to do this. So has the Congress. For instance:

In each of the past three years, the foreign operations bill has contained a provision allowing the U.S. government to spend monies for assistance programs in Pakistan operated by non-governmental organizations. Last year, for the first time, USAID provided nearly \$10 million for child survival and female literacy programs in Pakistan.

Under the terms of the Pressler amendment, Pakistan is not permitted to receive International Military Education and Training [IMET]. But in January, Secretary Perry agreed in principle that Islamabad could purchase professional military education [PME] courses, so long as the transfer of technology was not involved.

What I am proposing now is that the administration, in close consultation with the Congress, push this process forward. Certain desirable steps will require legislative action, but there are also steps the administration, after consultation with Congress, should take on its own. For instance:

(1) Pakistan should be made eligible for Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC] insurance programs. OPIC is not an aid donating agency. Its purpose is to promote U.S. business interests in overseas markets. By withholding OPIC eligibility, we only penalize our own business community. OPIC, moreover, has the added virtue of being self-financing.

(2) The Administration should waive the storage fees charged to Pakistan for holding its F-16s—fees that amount to \$50,000 per plane per year. We are refusing to release the airplanes, as the Pressler amendment requires, and then we insist that Pakistan pay us for holding them. This doesn't pass the common sense test.

(3) The Administration should move forward with Secretary Perry's suggestion that Pakistan be allowed to purchase PME courses. In this way, we will strengthen military-to-military ties, at a time when the Pakistani military, which for much of the country's history had been a threat to democracy, may now be the ultimate guarantor of Pakistani democracy. (The army's role during the year-long political crisis of 1993, for instance, has been viewed by many observers as positive.)

(4) We should provide visa enforcement training for Pakistani customs employees. Here again, this is a common sense move.

Slowing down illegal immigration to the United States is in our interest.

(5) We should be offering flight safety training to Pakistani air controllers. Since this would be of direct value to U.S. travelers, it is difficult to see why anyone should object.

(6) I would like to see the provisions contained in recent foreign operations bills maintained or even expanded, in order to permit limited economic assistance for social programs—population planning, for instance, or primary education, or rural clinics. While any assistance made available in this fashion would be modest in amount, it would send the message that the United States has not turned its back on a friend.

(7) Finally, I believe that fairness and good policy require that we return some of the military items that the Pakistani military sent here for repair or other work prior to the invocation of the Pressler amendment, and which we have kept because of the Pressler legislation.

Conclusion: None of these steps in and of themselves will turn the U.S.-Pakistani relationship around. But they would have a symbolic importance out of all proportion to their actual significance. They would say to the Pakistanis that we still value their friendship, that we care about this relationship. And they would help contribute to the success of Prime Minister Bhutto's visit.

I would urge the Administration to consult closely with the Congress before taking any of these steps. I am pleased to note that considerable consultation already has taken place. I would now encourage the Executive to come forward with specific recommendations, and I would encourage my colleagues in the Legislative branch to give such recommendations serious consideration.

From the standpoint of advancing U.S. policy objectives in South Asia, as well as promoting our global nonproliferation goals, we should accept the fact that the Pressler amendment, however well intended, has outlived its usefulness. The administration and the Congress should acknowledge this reality, and move to place our South Asia policy on a sounder footing.

The first step should be to lift some of the restrictions imposed by the Pressler amendment. I urge the members of this distinguished subcommittee to take the lead in this enterprise.

## BLACK PRESS WEEK

**HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 1995*

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the invaluable contributions of the African-American press. From the founding of the *Freedom's Journal*, to the pioneering work of *Ebony* founder John Johnson, to the contributions of the National Newspaper Publishers Association [NNPA], the African-American press has been in the forefront of news coverage and a force for social change. It is fitting that we honor these and other leaders during National Black Press Week.

This year, *Ebony* magazine is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Its founder and publisher, Mr. John Johnson, was recently awarded the prestigious Communication Award from the Center for Communication for this pioneering efforts on behalf of African-Americans. His work and values are embodied in *Ebony*, a premier American magazine known for its excellence.

Mr. Johnson's work has helped pave the way for many African Americans in journalism. Within my own congressional district, there are newspapermen of great distinction: Mr. William Hales, editor and publisher of the *Hartford Inquirer*; Mr. Edgar Johnson, editor of the *West Indian American*; and Mr. John Allen, editor-in-chief of the *North End Agent*. Each one has distinguished himself and his paper by informing the community about relevant issues and pressing for social change. They have increased public awareness on issues of importance to the African-American and West Indian-American community.

My district is richer for the contributions of these men and their papers. Today, their work is made possible in part by the legacy of the Nation's first African-American newspaper, the *Freedom's Journal*. Mr. John Brown Russwurm and Mr. Samuel E. Cornish founded this paper to honor the ideals of the rights and liberties guaranteed in the Constitution, and out of their appreciation for the rich diversity of African-American culture. Their first steps helped pave the way for the many men and women who followed in their footsteps. And they enriched the lives of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the NNPA on its 168th anniversary and also to thank all the journalists who carry on the traditions that make Black Press Week a distinguished celebration.